

how he can *ever* finish, if he doesn't begin." But she waited patiently.

"Once," said the Mock Turtle at last, with a deep sigh, "I was a real Turtle."

These words were followed by a very long silence, broken only by an occasional exclamation of "Hjckrrh!" from the Gryphon, and the constant heavy sobbing of the Mock Turtle. Alice was very nearly getting up and saying "Thank you, Sir, for your interesting story," but she could not help thinking there *must* be more to come, so she sat still and said nothing.

"When we were little," the Mock Turtle went on at last, more calmly, though still sobbing a little now and then, "we went to school in the sea. The master was an old Turtle—we used to call him Tortoise——"

"Why did you call him Tortoise, if he wasn't one?" Alice asked.

"We called him Tortoise because he taught us," said the Mock Turtle angrily. "Really you are very dull!"

"You ought to be ashamed of yourself for asking such a simple question," added the Gryphon; and then they both sat silent and looked at poor Alice, who felt ready to sink into the earth. At

last the Gryphon said to the Mock Turtle, "Well, on, old fellow! Don't be so silly." But he went on in these words:

"Yes, we went to school in the sea, but you mayn't believe it——"

"I never said I didn't!"

"You did," said the Mock Turtle.

"Hold your tongue!"

Before Alice could speak again the Mock Turtle went on.

"We had the best of everything for our dinners, and we went to school every day."

"I've been to a day-school."

"You needn't be so proud."

"With extras?" asked the Mock Turtle anxiously.

"Yes," said Alice: "with French, music, and washing."

"And washing?" said the Mock Turtle.

"Certainly not!" said Alice.

"Ah! Then yours was a very good school," said the Mock Turtle in a pleased tone.

"Now, at *ours*, they had to learn to swim."

"French, music, and washing?"

"You couldn't have washed at our school."

"living at the bottom of the sea."